

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /082 W
-----220856Z 035943 /21

R 220747Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5808
INTO RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 529
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ABU DHABI 0860

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TC, YE, YS
SUBJ: SHAIKH ZAYID'S VISIT TO YAR AND PDRY

REF: (A) ABU DHABI 720 (NOTAL), (B) SANA 1044 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID PLEASED BY IMPACT OF RECENT VISIT TO YAR AND PDRY. VISIT TO PDRY BELIEVED FIRST BY ARAB CHIEF OF STATE AND REFLECTS ZAYID'S OWN BRAND OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVISM OF SEEKING ENCOURAGE PDRY MOVE AWAY FROM REVOLUTIONARY IDEOLOGIES AND RETURN TO ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS VALUES. END SUMMARY.

2. UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID RETURNED EVENING MARCH 19
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AFTER FOUR DAY STATE VISIT TO YAR AND TWO DAY VISIT TO PDRY. VISIT TO PDRY WAS, AS FAR AS ANYONE HERE CAN RECALL, FIRST ONE BY ARAB CHIEF OF STATE. UPON HIS RETURN, ZAYID SEEMED VERY PLEASED, WHEN I SPOKE TO HIM BRIEFLY, OVER WHAT HE CLEARLY CONSIDERS IS BRAND OF PERSONAL DIPLOMACY AND IN BUILDING UP HIS IMAGE AS MODERN LEADER WHO CONTINUES PLACE GREAT STORE IN TRADITIONALIST ISLAMIC VALUES.

3. MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS GHUBBASH, WHO ACCOMPANIED ZAYID, WAS ABLE TO GIVE ME IMPRESSIONS OF VISIT DURING OUR MEETING ON MARCH 21. FIRST OF ALL, ZAYID WAS OVERWHELMED BY ENTHUSIASTIC PUBLIC RECEPTION HE RECEIVED IN ALL THE TOWNS HE VISITED IN YAR. HE HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH CROWDS. WHILE SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES WERE ORGANIZED, GHUBBASH SAID ZAYID APPEARED BE GENUINELY WELCOMED BY AVERAGE MAN IN STREET,

WHICH FLATTERS ANY POLITICIAN'S EGO. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WAS BECAUSE OF ZAYID'S REPUTATION FOR GENEROSITY OR BECAUSE HE WAS A LOCAL CURIOSITY, BUT IN ANY EVENT ZAYID'S EASYGOING AND UNSOPHISTICATED MANNER SEEMED TO WORK WELL. CROWDS IN ADEN ALSO WERE LARGE BUT, IN CONTRAST TO YAR, WERE MORE SUBDUED AND ORGANIZED. BUT EVEN IN ADEN, HE THOUGHT THE VISIT HAD GENERATED GENUINE INTEREST FOR MAN IN STREET.

4. GHUBBASH SAID VISIT TO PDRY WAS DONE ALMOST ON SPUR OF MOMENT. IT HAD COME ABOUT AS RESULT OF MEETING BETWEEN ZAYID AND PDRY PRESIDENT SALIM RUBAYA ALI ON MARCH 9 AT CLOSE OF CAIRO ARAB-AFRICAN CONFERENCE. RUBAYA ALI, NOTING THAT ZAYID WOULD BE VISITING YAR ON MARCH 12, ASKED HIM TO EXTEND VISIT TO INCLUDE ADEN. GHUBBASH NOTED AS AN ASIDE THAT PDRY HAS IN PAST THROUGH MEDIA AND SUPPORT FOR PFLOAG, SOUGHT TO UNDERMINE FOUNDATIONS OF UAE FEDERATION. HOWEVER, AS RESULT OF DIRECT CONTACTS WITH PDRY OFFICIALS WHICH STARTED A LITTLE OVER YEAR AGO AND WITH END OF WAR IN DHOFAR, PDRY "INSULTS" AGAINST
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UAE HAVE BEEN MUTED AND UAE LEADERSHIP HAS FELT THAT IT SHOULD DO WHAT IT CAN TO ENCOURAGE "POSITIVE ELEMENTS" WITHIN PDRY. IN LINE WITH EARLIER UAE CONSULTATIONS WITH SAUDIS ON RELATIONS WITH PDRY, GHUBBASH SAID ZAYID VISIT HAD BEEN CLEARED WITH SAUDIS IN ADVANCE AND YAR HAD INTERPOSED NO OBJECTION. THERE HAD BEEN NO TIME TO CONSULT WITH OMANIS.

5. WHILE IMPORTANCE ZAYID VISIT TO ADEN SHOULD NOT BE EXAGGERATED, GHUBBASH HOPED THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT EFFORTS OF MODERATE ARABS TO OPEN MORE AVENUES OF COMMUNICATION TO PDRY AND MAKE ORDINARY PDRY CITIZEN AWARE THAT THERE ARE LEADERS OTHER THAN THOSE FROM MOSCOW, PEKING, AND HAVANA (CASTRO HAD JUST BEEN THERE). ZAYID HAD MADE IT A POINT TO GET AS MUCH PUBLIC EXPOSURE IN ADEN AS POSSIBLE AND TO GO TO DIFFERENT MOSQUES FOR DAILY PRAYERS TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS VALUES FOR ARAB LEADERSHIP. THIS HAD REQUIRED HIS PDRY HOSTS TO ACCOMPANY HIM AND DO MORE PUBLIC PRAYING IN TWO

DAYS THAN THEY HAD PROBABLY DONE IN YEARS.

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6. GHUBBASH AFFIRMED THAT ZAYID MADE NO IMPORTANT NEW COMMITMENTS DURING HIS VISIT TO TWO YENMRY. IN YAR, HE PROMISED ONLY TO BUILD TWO SCHOOLS AND A LIBRARY IN HODAIDA AND SAME IN TAIZ. IN ADEN, HE PROMISED TO BUILD THREE MOSQUES. UAE FUNDING OF YAR SCHOLARSHIPS IN US (SANA'S 830) WAS NOT RAISED BY YAR DURING ZAYID'S VISIT, AND GHUBBASH FELT UAE FUNDING OF 300 EXPATRIATE TEACHERS IN YAR SECONDARY SCHOOLS MAKING MORE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATIONAL EFFORT THAN ANYTHING ELSE AT MOMENT. NO DECISION WAS MADE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN UAE AND PDRY. UAE WANTED PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY ON THIS SCORE. RUBAYA ALI HAD BEEN INVITED TO COME TO ABU DHABI AT SOME FUTURE TIME WHEN THIS MIGHT BE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION.

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7. I ASKED GHUBBASH IF THERE WAS ANY CONNECTION WITH
ZAYID VISIT TO PDRY AND THAT OF SUDAN'S PRESIDENT NIMEIRI.
HE SAID THERE WAS NONE WHATSOEVER.
DICKMAN

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